ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 23, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

October 11, 2026 10 A.M.

Welcome!

Wherever you happen to be on your spiritual journey, **there is a place for you here**, and we invite you to participate as fully as you wish. There is a saying in the Episcopal tradition that answers many a question: "All *may*, some *do*, but none *must*." We gather to feast on Word and sacrament and song, to learn and inquire, to enjoy relaxed fellowship and find mutual support. And we are sent out to be the Body of Christ in the world, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

To participate in worship today all you need is this bulletin. If you are new or visiting, we invite you to consider filling out a **blue information card** (located in the pew rack). You can use it to request a **nametag**, which will be waiting for you on the table inside the main entrance.

All church spaces are accessible. Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp are located in back of the building; a lift for access to the second floor is located at the stairway.

Restrooms are located on the second floor. Go through the double doors near the pulpit, upstairs to the second floor, and to the far end of the hallway. A **gender-neutral restroom with baby changing table** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the double doors near the pulpit.

Three seating areas at the front of the nave are reserved for **families with small children**: the area under the array of paper cranes (for children age 3 and under), and the two areas in front of the front pews (for children age 10 and under). For safety, every child should be accompanied by a caregiver.

Wireless access in the Sanctuary is accessible by connecting to wireless network STEC – Guest. Your device will open a web browser and the St. Thomas's website. Bulletins are posted in the website's Bulletin Archive. To reduce printing, we encourage worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the service.

St. Thomas's Church is located on Eansketambawg (Quinnipiac) land. This acknowledgment compels us to pause: in gratitude for the Quinnipiac and other Algonquin-speaking stewards of the territory that is now Connecticut; in regret for Christianity's participation in the colonization of the Americas; and in faith that God's reconciling power will bring true healing to the Earth and all its inhabitants.

VOLUNTARY I. Pastorale

Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901), from Organ Sonata No. 3, Op. 88

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

HYMN Christ, whose glory fills the skies (**7**, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Ratisbon*, melody from *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, 1524; adapt. att. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870); harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers (**S 236**, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). Copyright © 1985 Oxford University Press, Inc.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

Presider: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Presider: Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON EXODUS 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know

what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 106:1-6, 19-23 (*Sung by the Choir*) Alec Wyton

1 Hallelujah!
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?
3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!
4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;
5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;
20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,
22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

THE SECOND LESSON PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN O Jesus, joy of loving hearts (**649**, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Words: Att. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153), tr. and para. Ray Palmer (1808-1887), alt. Adapted text from ICEL Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy. Copyright © 1981, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. Music: *Dickinson College*, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979) 1962, Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission of the Publisher. Copyright © 1962 Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission of the publisher.

THE GOSPEL MATTHEW 22:1-14

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He

sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are seated.

THE SERMON

After the sermon, all remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.

THE NICENE CREED

Presider and People
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(from A New Zealand Prayer Book)*

Presider
Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

Intercessor and People
Caring God, we thank you for your gifts in creation:
for our world, **the heavens tell of your glory;**
for our land, its beauty and its resources, **for the rich heritage we enjoy.**

We pray:
for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,
that we may use your gifts responsibly;
for those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry,
that all may enjoy the fruits of their labours and marvel at your creation;
for artists, scientists, and visionaries,
that through their work we may see creation afresh.

[*Silence is kept.*]

We thank you for giving us life; **for all who enrich our experience.**

We pray:
for all who are deprived of fullness of life,
for prisoners, refugees, and those who are sick;
for those in politics, medical science, social and relief work, and for your Church,
for all who seek to bring life to others.

[*Silence is kept.*]

We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.
Give us reverence for life in your world.

We thank you for your redeeming love;
may your word and sacrament strengthen us to love as you love us.

[*Silence is kept.*]

God, Creator, bring us new life. **Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.**
Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

The Presider invites the People to share their own petitions aloud or silently.

The Presider adds a concluding collect.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider
Let us confess our sins to God. [*Silence is kept.*]

Presider and People
God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

Please greet your neighbors with a sign of peace, in whatever way seems welcome. You may then be seated for brief announcements and the ***Offertory Anthem****.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your financial support is sincerely appreciated. We will not pass a collection plate today; collection plates are located at the doors. To give online, go to the Church website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If viewing this document electronically, simply CLICK HERE. Thank you!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*Sung by the Choir*) Rejoice in the Lord alway

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men:
the Lord is e'en at hand.
Be careful for nothing:
but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions
be manifest unto God, with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God, which passeth all
understanding, keep your hearts and minds
through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Words: Philippians 4:4-7 Music: Anonymous (16th century)

During the singing of the ***Offertory Hymn****, the Ushers bring the gifts forward and the Presider sets the table. The People follow the Ushers and encircle the altar for the Eucharistic prayer. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If this is difficult for you, feel free to sit in a chair near the altar or in the the front row of pews. You may also remain where you are.*

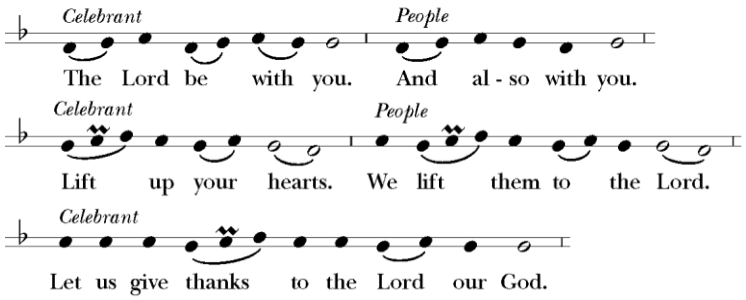
All stand.

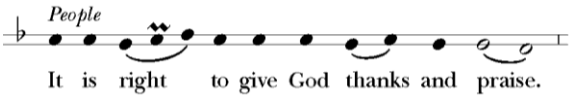
OFFERTORY HYMN For the bread which you have broken (**341**, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Words: Louis F. Benson (1855-1930), alt. Copyright © Louis F. Benson. Used by permission of Robert F. Jeffery. Music: *Omni die*, melody from *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, 1631; harm. William Smith Rockstro (1823-1895).

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2 (*ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP*)



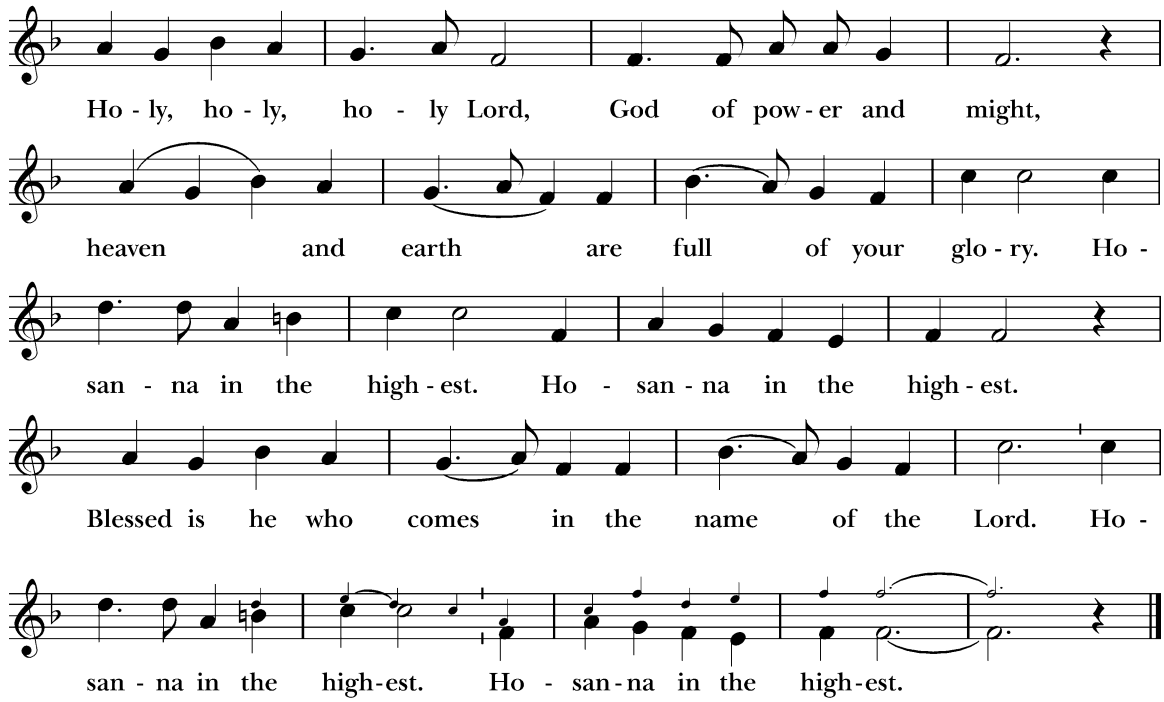


Presider

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and time again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS Holy, holy, holy Lord (**S 125**, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

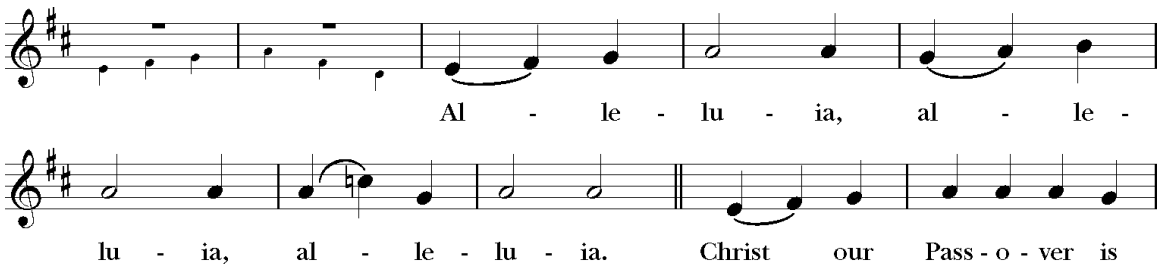
You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.

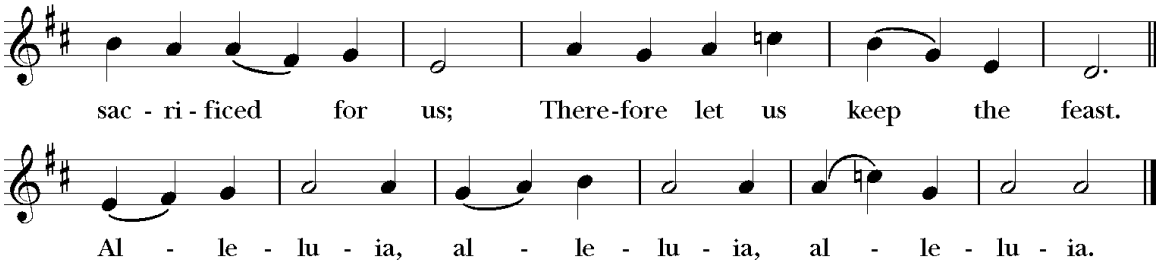
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM Christ our Passover (**S 155**, *The Hymnal 1982*)





Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. *Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. For the distribution of Holy Communion, the priest and Eucharistic minister will come to you. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest. You may choose not to partake of wine—Holy Communion is complete and efficacious when received in one kind only. To receive wine, you may sip from the common cup, or intinct (dip the bread into the wine). If you choose to intinct, please dip only the tip of the bread into the wine—fingers that touch the wine are a source of contamination. After receiving communion or a blessing, please return to your original seat.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM (*Sung by the Schola Antiqua*) God be in my head

God be in my head and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth and in my speaking;
God be in my heart and in my thinking;
God be at mine end,
and at my departing.

Words: Anonymous, from Richard Pynson's (c1449–1529) *Horae B.V.M.* (1514)
Music: Herbert Howells (1892–1983), ed. Patrick Russell

After all have received communion, all stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People
**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

People: [*The Presider blesses the People.*]
People: Amen.

HYMN God the Omnipotent! (**569**, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Words: Sts. 1-2, Henry Fothergill Chorley (1808-1872), alt.; sts. 3-4, John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt. Music: *Russia*, Alexis Lvov (1799-1870).

DISMISSAL

Presider: *[The Presider dismisses the People.]*
People: Thanks be to God.

You may be seated for the voluntary or exit the church.

VOLUNTARY 'Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir'
Georg Böhm (1661–1733)

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Serving Today

Coffee Hour Hosts: Max Ballardo, Alan Murchie
Flowers: Heather Robison
Intercessor: Bob Herdt
Lector: Bryan Hiott
Music Director: Dr. Matthew Cramer
Organist: Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz
Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Alan Murchie
Sacristan: Debbie Griffin
Subdeacon: Ricardo Chavira
Ushers: Chris and CharlotteRose Acosta, Debbie Griffin
Vestry Host: Claire Scully

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry
Max Ballardo
Sheldon Campbell
Ricardo Chavira (Junior Warden)
Maria Coffin
Bill English (Treasurer)
Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)
Linda Pivarnik
Claire Scully (Clerk)
Denise Terry

St. Thomas's Clergy
The Rev. Eric Jeuland, Priest Associate
The Rev. Jane Jeuland, Priest Associate
The Rev. Alan C. Murchie, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp, Preacher-in-Residence

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
for Gary, Maria, Martin, Michael, Susan
for the people of Iran
for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia
for the people of Gaza and the people of Israel
for victims of civil war in Syria and the Sudan
for all who are afflicted by war, violence, and natural disaster

Pray for those who have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for: St. John's, Vernon; St. Paul's, Wallingford; St. John's, Washington; Young adults, Young Adult Episcopal Ministry Network, 20 & 30s Ministry Network. The Episcopal Service Corps & the Young Adult Service Corps of The Episcopal Church

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for: The Anglican Church of Burundi

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL
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♦Dr. Matthew Cramer, Music Director
music@stthomasnewhaven.org
♦Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz, Organist
s.gamboa-diaz@stthomasnewhaven.org
♦Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org
♦The Rev. Alan Murchie, Rector
alan@stthomasnewhaven.org
♦Teagan Sage, Seminarian Intern
teagan@stthomasnewhaven.org

Announcements

For all the latest news and information, see last week's edition of the Weekly Parish Enews. From the Parish website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), click Enews Archive for the latest edition or Enews (subscribe) to subscribe.

Potluck Dinner & Hymn Sing| Friday, October 16 at 6PM
Join us for parish hymn sing preceded by a potluck dinner at 6PM in the lounge! All are welcome. If you would like to bring a dish or can help with setup and cleanup, please email Matt (m.cramer@stthomasnewhaven.org) or Alan (alan@stthomasnewhaven.org) with interest.

Day School Admissions Open House | Sunday, October 18 at 2PM
Please join us at Open House to tour campus, meet faculty, students, and current parents, and attend a breakout session on the program and culture of St. Thomas's Day School!

Ca-BOO!-ret Fundraiser| Saturday, October 31 at 7PM
You are invited to a family-friendly cabaret fundraiser for the choir in the sanctuary on Halloween! Come hear spooky choral pieces and solos by members of the choir while enjoying light refreshments, all to help raise funds for our music ministry! We'll also have goodie bags and an organ demonstration for kids (and kids at heart!). Admission to the event is $25 for adults and $15 for kids 12 and up; children 11 and under are admitted free. To reserve your spot, or if you would like to help with refreshments or ushering, please contact Matt at m.cramer@st.thomasnewhaven.org

✠ In Memoriam: Remembering the Departed on All Saints' Sunday, November 1 ✠
On Sunday, November 1, we will gather to remember and celebrate the faithful departed in every generation as we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. We give thanks to God for the communion of souls present and past in whom Christ's love has been made known. We will pray by name for all who have died in the past year; **we invite you to add names of beloved family, companions along the way, and friends in whose memory we will pray.** Please be in touch with us here in the parish office with names and, if you think helpful, pronunciations. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ~Alan

Special Note from Denise about All Saints' Sunday, November 1:
Dear friends, This year, we invite all of our parish's young persons to contribute to a special All Saints' altar. We will decorate our small side altar with marigolds and with small photos of beloved family and friends who have died in the past year. We will provide 3x5 inch wooden craft frames. If you would like to participate, please send me a photo of your loved one at terry.df@gmail.com. Come on a Sunday in October to learn more or to pick up a frame. You may paint the frame yourself or we can do it for you. ~Denise

Inquirers' Class
Our monthly Inquirers' Class invites all interested into a dynamic, ongoing conversation about the Episcopal and Anglican traditions. What does it mean to be Episcopalian? What do we believe? What makes us distinctive? Topics include church history, the Prayer Book, music, architecture, liturgy, and much more. One may attend one, a few, or all; each class focuses on a different topic. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-6:30. The next class will be held on **November 3**. All are welcome, whether new to the Episcopal Church or not! We meet in the Vesting Room just beyond the sanctuary. To enter the building, please use the ramp door (up the short ramp behind the building) since the main church doors are locked at that hour. Feel free to be in touch with Alan anytime with questions at alan@stthomasnewhaven.org.

Children's Programs at St. T's 2026-2027
St. Thomas's welcomes children of all ages as full members of the parish. Plans for our children in the coming season include participation in Sunday morning liturgies, service projects, and special liturgical events.

Opportunities for 2026-2027 include:

1. **Family Sundays** featuring a children's homily and opportunities for children and youth to serve as l**ectors, intercessors, ushers and altar servers.**
2. **Service Projects** including blessing bags, Christmas and Valentine cards for children at Yale-New Haven Hospital, clean-up days at East Rock Park, and Chapel on the Green. We will also partner with **St. Thomas's Day School** in food and clothing drives.
3. **Special Liturgical Events**, including an **All Saints Day** altar in remembrance of those who have died this year; our beloved **Christmas Eve** pageant; and our **Palm Sunday** Stations of the Cross "Walk in Nature" at Edgerton Park.

Coffee Hour
Please consider signing up as Coffee Hour host, co-host, or contributor, either by adding your name to the poster in the lounge or by using our online signup here.

Parish Directory Updates
Please email Julie with any changes to your address or contact info, or if you wish to be added to the directory. Thank you.

Name Tags
Wearing name tags is a simple and wonderful way to practice radical welcome. If you have never had a St. Thomas's name tag, or have lost the one you had, please sign up in the narthex or at coffee hour and look for your new name tag in a week's time. You can also email Julie in the parish office, j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org to request a name tag. Name tags may be left in the basket in the lounge following coffee hour, or at the rear of the church in the name tag holders. Please wear your name tag every week!

Sunday Server Sign-ups
There are many ways to contribute to the worship life of St. Thomas's. We are eager to welcome new servers in the roles of lector, usher, intercessor, subdeacon, and sacristan. If you are interested in learning more or in receiving training, please reach out to Vestry member Claire Scully, chiarasam@comcast.net. We would love for you to share your gifts with St. Thomas!

Interested in joining St. Thomas's Choir?
The St. Thomas's Choir sings for Sunday morning and special liturgies during the program year, offering anthems, canticles and psalms. The choir includes volunteers and professional section leaders. Its repertoire is drawn from the rich tradition of Anglican choral music, spanning many centuries.
The St. Thomas's Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., from September to June. New members are always welcome; an ability to read music and prior choral experience is desirable.

Contact music director Dr. Matthew Cramer at m.cramer@stthomasnewhaven.org for more information.

Responding to Food Insecurity in our Community
Connecticut Food Pantries have seen a sharp rise in need this year, serving 23% more households. The need is great. Please join us in supporting Loaves and Fishes. You can give at this link.

Donating Clothing for Loaves and Fishes. Our support for the clothing ministry is ongoing. Please be thoughtful in your selection of items. Current specific requests include: men's/women's jeans; men's shirts, sweaters, jackets, shoes, new socks. Bring donations to St. Thomas's (leave them in the tub at the Whitney Ave. entrance) or to Loaves and Fishes (Thurs-Sat, 9-11 a.m., in the driveway at 57 Olive St.).